

# The Downs

Site guide



Bristol City Council

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## 1. Location

Clifton Down and Durdham Down are north of the city centre. Large green spaces on the edge of the city suitable for picnics, exercise, sport and events.

## 2. Site Address

Stoke Road, Bristol BS9 1FG

Google Maps : [3D Aerial](#) and [Directions](#) Map

## 3. Site description

Seawalls: Open public parkland overlooking Avon Gorge. Flat with grass. Good compaction.

Show ground: Open public parkland, flat with grass and connecting pathways. Hard compaction.

Water Tower Site: Open public parkland, flat with grass. Hard compaction.

Parry's lane: Some undulations in the ground surface depending on extent of footprint. Good compaction.

### 3.1 The event space

The Downs has 4 event spaces you can use together or separately.

For below:

- 1- Seawalls
- 2- Showground
- 3- Water Tower Site
- 4- Parry's lane



## 4. Ground conditions

Parry's Lane - Some undulations in the ground surface depending on extent of footprint. Good compaction.

## 5. Event Area

Find a larger online version of this site on our map of [Bristol Outdoor Events Areas](#)

## 6. Accessibility

**Event organisers are responsible for making their events as accessible as possible.**

To find out about accessibility at The Downs, you can look at [an access guide on DisabledGo](#).

## 7. Access and Parking

### 7.1 Vehicle Access

Parry's lane: In the corner of Parrys Lane slip Rd and Saville Rd

Water Tower: Next to the toilet block on Stoke Rd

Showground: At the junction of Ladies Mile and Stoke Rd

Sea Walls: Various points around Circular Rd where the kerb is low

### 7.2 Parking

There is no dedicated car park. Find out [where to park in Bristol](#).

### 7.3 Pedestrian Access

There are multiple pedestrian access points that can be found here [Bristol Outdoor Events Areas](#)

### 7.4 Traffic management

A traffic management plan will need to be agreed with Bristol City Council and in consultation with the Safety Advisory Group

## 8. Transport links

Train station (Clifton Down)

Find more transport options and timings on the [travelWEST website](#).

## 9. Site facilities

- The Downs Cafe
- toilets and baby changing facilities at Sea Walls (on Circular Road)

- [BBQ area on Ladies Mile \(pdf, 3.82 MB\)](#), you can only BBQ on the flagstones set into the signposted area
- six outdoor exercise stations
- [football pitches](#) and changing rooms
- [Avon Gorge](#)
- Clifton Down Camp, an Iron Age hillfort near the Clifton Observatory
- [Clifton Observatory](#), camera obscura and cave
- Roman Road on Durdham Downs
- parts of The Downs are [scheduled ancient monuments](#)

## 9.1 Permanent Infrastructure

- Benches and picnic areas
- children's playground on Sion Hill
- Bins
- The Downs Cafe
- Toilets

## 9.2 Power supply

Please use our [power map](#) to find out what power is available at this site.

**Event organisers should prioritise means of power higher in the [power hierarchy](#).**

## 9.3 Water supply

Use our [water map](#) to see what water resources are available at this site.

You can also find further details in our Water Guidance.

## 9.4 Toilets

Toilets at Water Tower and Sea Walls.

Accessible and baby change facilities also available.

To calculate additional infrastructure facilities required for your event please refer to [The Purple Guide](#) for guidance on minimum provision.

# 10. Waste management

- Event organisers should prioritise methods higher in the [waste hierarchy](#)
- The waste management plan must include the surrounding area and key ingress and egress routes
- The event organisers are responsible for doing a litter pick after the event and also disposing of all of this waste.
- The fixed waste bins onsite are not for event-use and should not be factored into the waste management plan.

# 11. Restrictions of the site

**Parry's Lane:**

- Some undulations in the ground surface depending on extent of footprint.

**Seawalls:**

- Ground protection on vehicle entrance-ways

**Showground:**

- Weight loading. Ground protection.
- Agreed access times.
- Permanent monuments/infrastructure:
- Ground protection for all vehicles.
- Trees around perimeter.
- Benches

**Water tower site:**

- Ground protection for all vehicles.
- Nature Conservation & Tree Protection Orders:
- Within Site of Nature Conservation Interest. Sensitive meadow areas.
- Trees around perimeter.
- Benches

## 12. Nature conservation

### **Nature Conservation Designations**

The site is designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCI). In addition, the Avon Gorge is located directly adjacent and is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and SNCI.

### **Notable Habitats**

The Events area includes open grassland which is cut regularly. Large areas of the Downs are managed as species-rich hay meadows, funded by a Countryside Stewardship Scheme (CSS) agreement with Natural England. There are also trees, small areas of woodland and scrub scattered across the Downs site.

There are notable habitats located adjacent to the site within the Avon Gorge including limestone grassland on rocky outcrops, and woodland. An Area called the Gully is fenced and grazed using goats to control the scrub and encourage rare plants to grow.

No activities should be permitted which cause damage to these habitats. Events should be avoided within the grassland areas covered by the CSS agreement. Measures will need to be taken to avoid impacts to the wider site and adjacent Avon Gorge habitats as a result of increased footfall or use of vehicles and machinery.

### **Notable Species**

The meadow areas support a high diversity of wildflowers including various orchid species. General potential for nesting birds across the site. Several species of bat have been recorded using the site, and there is a high likelihood of bat roosts being present in trees and structures within the site. Potential for badger setts to be present within areas of denser scrub and woodland.

There are also rare and protected species located nearby within the Avon Gorge including notable plants and trees, nesting birds (including birds of prey), reptiles and insects.

Measures must be taken to ensure there are no direct impacts to these species such as via damage to habitats, or indirect impacts such as via disturbance from artificial lighting, noise and vibration, litter and pollution impacts.

## 14. Hazards

Significant risk of wet ground conditions for events scheduled between April and May, equally Sept Oct.

## 15. Consultation and stakeholder engagement

Out of courtesy, it is recommended that event organisers contact local businesses and residents to discuss their event and the impact it may have.

For larger events, it is recommended that organisers contact all surrounding businesses to inform them about the event as well as any local residents as stipulated by the city council's Noise Pollution Team.

**Downs Committee - joint committee of Bristol City Council and the Society of Merchant Venturers**

## 16. Fees and charges

### 16.1 Hire Fee

A site fee and application fee are required for the use of Bristol Council land. Please ensure you are fully aware of all relevant costs on submission of your application.

### 16.2 Site Bond

A site bond may be held in consideration for damages with the amount calculated depending on the size of the event.

Land reinstatement may be required within a week post-event (weather dependent) and a contractor is to be agreed prior to the event.

## 17. Maps

Find a larger online version of this site on our map of [Bristol Outdoor Events Areas](#)